

Rome altogether. He only wished to repudiate it when it was wrong. But he had already thrown over all respect for a bad Pope, such as he believed Gregory to be, or for Papal decrees which he considered fallacious. Next year, in accordance with these views, he submitted his case to the new Pope, Urban the Sixth, in the hopes that a change for the better had come over the Papacy.¹ It was some years yet before he denied that the Pope ever rightly had, or could have, power of any sort over the Church.

It was not till close on Christmas that Sudbury and Courtenay ventured to act on their orders from Eome. On December 18 they began by calling on the Oxford authorities to produce the man whom the last few months had made so famous and formidable. The Oxonians were in a great strait. The bull that they had received from the Vatican some months back bade them arrest Wycliffe under pain of losing all privileges held from the Pope. Now there was not only a strong party on the reformer's side in the schools, but it was flatly against the common law of England to arrest a King's subject in obedience to a Papal bull. A chronicle of the time tells us how the University met the difficulty. * So the friends of the said John Wycliffe, and John himself, took counsel in the Congregation of Begents and non-Begents, that they should not imprison a man of the King of England at the command of the Pope, lest they should seem to give the Pope lordship and regal power in England ; and since it was necessary to do something at the Pope's orders, as it seemed to the University on taking counsel, the Vice-Chancellor, a certain monk, asked Wycliffe and ordered him to stay in Black Hall and not go out, because he wished no one else to arrest him, Wycliffe agreed to do so, as he had sworn to the University to preserve its privileges/ ^ By this collusive imprisonment the Oxford authorities hoped to satisfy the incompatible claims of the Pope and the English government alike, to maintain their own dignity and to display their friendship to the accused. This year was the high-water mark of his general popularity with the various parties in

. JZ., 490; *De JBcc.*, cap. xv. S52; ^asc. #., x&xiii.
note S, * *Cont. Mulog** (B. 8.), §48*